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The Mountain Pact Celebrates President Biden’s Announcement of the “America the Beautiful Challenge”

*Challenge Leverages \$440 million in Public Funds to Encourage Additional
Private Investment Totaling \$1 billion*

WASHINGTON, DC -- Moments ago, President Biden [announced](#) the “America the Beautiful Challenge,” in which the federal government would put \$440 million of existing federal dollars into a conservation challenge run by the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#). The NFWF would leverage those funds to secure additional private dollars for conservation efforts, with the goal of establishing more than \$1 billion that will be put towards conserving land and waters across the U.S.

In reaction to the announcement, Anna Peterson, executive director of [The Mountain Pact](#), a coalition of local elected officials in more than 80 Western mountain communities with recreation based economies, issued the following statement:

“The Mountain Pact celebrates President Biden’s ongoing effort to conserve and protect lands and waterways thereby keeping America beautiful. These efforts will protect communities across the country from impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. We thank President Biden for leading by example and setting aside the funds necessary to encourage additional private conservation efforts.”

Many communities in The Mountain Pact network have passed resolutions in support of the America the Beautiful Initiative. Additionally, last summer, The Mountain Pact release a report entitled [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful - Now is the Time - Western Mountain Communities Working to Achieve the 30x30 Goal](#) that highlights examples from all eleven Western states on what Western mountain communities are doing to conserve nature and contribute to the [America the Beautiful Initiative](#). The report offers [recommendations](#) for on-the-ground conservation work, policy recommendations, as well as new strategies and projects to help achieve the goals of the America the Beautiful effort. You can read more about what local elected officials across the West said about the program [here](#).

The Mountain Pact also sent a [letter](#) to the Biden administration signed by over 115 Western state legislators, county commissioners, mayors, and council members from all eleven Western states. The letter thanks the administration for taking climate action and protecting our public lands through programs like the historic [America the Beautiful initiative](#). The letter also applauds the administration’s restoration of Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts national monuments and urges the President to use the Antiquities Act to protect more lands as national monuments.

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.